

The True Northerner.

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Chautauqua Notes

The ninth annual Paw Paw Chautauqua is now history.

The old Court House grounds looked like a deserted village Wednesday morning. It gave one a sort of home sick feeling to see the workmen tearing down the tent and seats.

The receipts this year fell a little short of \$1500, about \$200 less than the total receipts last year. The single admission tickets sold were about the same as last year, but the season tickets fell about one hundred short.

The Midland Chautauqua Bureau has been very courteous and lenient about guarantees, none being required for the last two seasons. Next season however, they want a guarantee of five hundred season tickets, and no one can say that such a guarantee is unreasonable. Four hundred and thirty tickets were pledged before the closing number Wednesday evening, and it is quite probable that the balance will be signed to secure the Chautauqua again next year.

Local manager Henry Shaefer is entitled to more than passing credit for the success of the Paw Paw Chautauquas. For nine years now he has looked after the local details of the business and his genial courteous ways, and efficient management have played no small part in the success of the venture. Patrons of the Chautauqua are hoping that he may be induced to remain as local manager as long as there shall be Chautauqua.

Some low lived villain cut the main guy rope on the south side of the tent last Sunday night. Had a strong wind been blowing at the time, the tent would undoubtedly have collapsed with consequences too horrible to contemplate. It is to be regretted that the perpetrator of such a dastardly trick could not have been caught in the act and have received his just deserts.

One of the most important features of the Chautauqua was the Junior Department under the supervision of Miss Dunning. The splendid deportment of the children during the programs was one of the direct results, and the fine program furnished by them the last afternoon was one of the most enjoyable features of the week. The children enjoyed a "Melon Feed" after the program.

It is utterly impossible to please everybody, but the consensus of opinion, so far as we have been able to ascertain, is that this was the best program taking it as a whole that was ever put on here. Some of the musical features were not strong, but it was a pretty well balanced program all the way through, and gave good satisfaction.

Strickland Gillilan was easily the star of the week. He is a great man and a top notch humorist. Chautauqua patrons were indeed fortunate to have an opportunity to see, laugh and enjoy the man who wrote "Off Ag'in, On Ag'in, Gone Ag'in, Finnigin."

Lieutenant Lee Nichols gave an illustrated talk on "The Human Side of Trench Life." He is a Britisher, who lost an arm in one of the early battles of the war, and while he is in no sense an orator, his personal participation in the things he talks about, gave the talk a touch of realism that made it intensely interesting. He was handicapped somewhat by the receipt of an anonymous letter in the afternoon making a bitter attack on his native country, Great Britain, and calling upon him to explain how he could condone the many offenses of his country in the years gone by, which the writer of the letter enumerated in bitter sarcastic language. The Lieutenant read the letter, characterized the writer as a dirty coward and called upon him to arise and show himself, and he would endeavor to answer any question he might ask. The writer, if he was in the audience showed discretion by remaining seated.

ed. It is probable that the writer of this letter had no treasonable thoughts in his heart when it was written, but it was in mighty poor taste and ill-advised. An anonymous letter is reprehensible at any time, and now, when we are at war, an attack, anonymous or otherwise on one of the allies might easily be misconstrued as an unfriendly act. We do not doubt the good motives of the writer, but that does not condone the offense.

The platform manager, Rev. F. M. Warren, made many friends in Paw Paw during the week. He is a minister at Vinton, Iowa and preached in the Disciple church here on Sunday morning. His genial courteous ways, and brief announcements made a hit with Chautauqua patrons.

"America and the Great War" by Governor H. A. Buchtel, was one of the strongest lectures ever heard here. He is an orator of national prominence, and the only preacher who was ever elected governor of any state. He has a rare ability and a profound knowledge of the things of which he speaks.

The Hugh Anderson Concert company was the gem of the entire musical numbers. Every member of this company is an artist of ability.

As a rule, Jubilee singers are not strong with a Paw Paw audience, but Mason's Jubilee Singers proved an exception to the rule. The best ever sent here, seemed to be the verdict.

Oberg and Barnaby gave a pleasing sketch adapted from the celebrated play "It Pays to Advertise."

Dr. Wm. S. Sadler in the evening and his gifted wife, Dr. Lena K. Sadler in the afternoon, made one of the most instructive and enjoyable days of the week.

Sunday was a big day, when Sarah Mildred Willmer read the celebrated story "Experience." Miss Willmer is a sister of Dr. Lena K. Sadler who was on the program the following day.

If any number did not please you, it was undoubtedly given for the benefit of your neighbor who was delighted with it, as Mr. Rounds said as a prelude to the concert by his Ladies Orchestra.

"Rejuvenation" a comedy-drama given by the Clare Vaughan Wales company made many a laugh.

Harriette Gunn Roberson delivered a message throbbing with human sympathy and tenderness.

Two ladies were talking of the unfortunate circumstance of so many rainy days during Chautauqua week when one of them seemed to have an afterthought and remarked: But after all we needed the rain so badly and it has proven to us that our own Paw Paw people are the best natured folks on earth.

A lady who had thoroughly enjoyed a certain afternoon's program was told that Mr. Blank and also Mrs. So-and-so both said the singing was the worst they had ever heard; where upon she regretted that she had enjoyed it so much for fear it was not up to the standard, and she had expressed herself several times.

NASH-REITS NUPTIALS.

Miss Mary Elizabeth Nash, daughter of Mrs. Mina Hopkins on August 22nd, became the happy bride of George Lytle Reits, one of Paw Paw's popular young men. Mr. Reits is in the employ of the Warner Lee Company. The young people expect to make Paw Paw their permanent home. The marriage was performed by the Rev. C. H. Heaton at the Hopkins home in the presence of the two families at four o'clock in the afternoon. In a week or two Mr. and Mrs. Reits will be at their new home on Berrien street.

A CRUMB OF COMFORT FOR THE BOYS AT THE FRONT.

Have you contributed your "Bit" yet to provide the boys in the trenches with "smokes"? If not, wouldn't it be a good plan to do so? Nearly one hundred and fifty have already contributed a "Bit of Comfort" for the boys who smoke. The Paw Paw Cigar window is filled with packages, but there is room for many more. This is a movement spreading all over the country, and every one here seems disposed to help the cause along. Tag sale day, the last day of Chautauqua added over fifty packages to the pile. The complete list of those who provide one or more packages for this shipment will be published in these columns in a later issue. Swell the list, and let's send a shipment worth while. Your name and address will appear on the package you send.

MASONS ASKED TO PICNIC WITH STAR OF LAKE LODGE.

Star of the Lake Lodge F. and A. M. of South Haven, announce their annual picnic in Oakland Park in that city next Monday, Labor day. Dinner will be served at noon—Star of the Lake Lodge furnishing Coffee, Sugar and Milk and the rest the guests are expected to bring. A program of sports is planned for the afternoon. This has been an annual custom with the South Haven lodge for the past three years. This year other lodges of the county are invited to participate, with the idea of making it an annual county event, to meet at different places about the county from year to year. A permanent organization of that nature will undoubtedly be perfected next Monday. Members of Paw Paw Lodge No. 25 F. and A. M. are cordially invited to attend this picnic. Don't forget the basket.

Interesting Local News

Mrs. E. B. Longwell accompanied her parents Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Chapin to Boston to attend the National Encampment of the G. A. R.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hineckley of Decatur are in Paw Paw and will be with their son Fred and children for a time.

Charles Grimes and family are guests of his mother, Mrs. Alice Grimes.

Sergeant Jesse Lamson came home on a forty-eight hour furlough Thursday morning. He is looking fine, and anxiously awaiting the time when his regiment is called to the front.

Miss Rena Van Fossen left last Sunday evening for Pittsburgh Pa., where she will teach in the schools of that city.

The True Northerner advertises an auction for W. T. Davis at Fair Oaks on Thursday, September 6th. He has leased his farm and will be away for the winter. A large "ad" in this issue gives the details of the sale.

Mrs. P. M. Hoetger of Elkhart, Ind. arrived Wednesday and will remain in Paw Paw for a few weeks in the capacity of trimmer at the Maple City Millinery store.

Miss Nina Jackson left for Detroit Monday morning. She will go to Saline later where she has purchased a millinery stock.

Mrs. Helen Sheldon who has been in a Kalamazoo hospital for an operation has been in a serious condition during the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wolfs went to Detroit Friday and returned Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gould are riding in a new automobile which they purchased last week.

Lieutenants Mark Chaffee and Robert Dillon left for Camp Custer Tuesday.

Miss Ione Reynolds leaves this morning to resume her work in the schools of Connersville, Indiana.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Adriance will leave Saturday for their home in Nebraska after a few weeks visit at the home of their daughter Mrs. Will Howe.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Marr and daughter Helene were in Cassopolis Thursday to attend the funeral of Mrs. C. E. Deal, a relative of the family.

Mrs. Frank Miller is entertaining a sister from Northern Michigan this week.

Mrs. Jesse Osterholt of Battle Creek spent several days with Miss Polly Amsterberg the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. LaRue Chappell departed Tuesday for Des Moines, Iowa where they will remain indefinitely.

Charles Bilshorow and A. N. Cole were business visitors in Detroit on Monday.

Mrs. John Latshaw of Allegan was a week end guest at the H. A. Cole home.

(Additional Local News on Page 8)

To Help Farmers

The following letter which has been sent to all school officers is self explanatory. The labor situation is such that something of this kind seems imperative. The Department of Labor are planning to meet our shortage by sending in school boys from the cities. We know of course that our boys and girls would furnish us better help than we could get from the cities. We have in the county eight hundred boys above fourteen years of age. A large number of these would assist at home and the balance be available as hired help. There are about the same number of girls who could assist materially with a number of crops, especially grapes. Many children under fourteen years of age would be of considerable help. The plan suggested does not interfere with the

length of school term. It would promote good school work by eliminating the principal cause for absence. Pupils out of school hinder the progress of all, retarding the grade while the teacher spends time which belongs to the whole school trying to get them up with their work. This plan will do away almost entirely with requests to stay out of school to work. There may be districts where the labor situation does not seem to demand this action and there may be communities where the suggested time of vacation might be changed to advantage. These are questions for the local school board to consider. We trust that this plan will appeal to the village and city schools for it is from these that we hope to secure the most help.

To School Boards and School Officials of Van Buren County:—

The opening of the school year finds us faced with a labor situation which is acute. The industries of the cities have been exerting a steadily increasing drain upon our farm labor for a number of years. The draft will fall heavily upon us for we must not only furnish our quota for the army, but send men to the cities to take the place of those in the manufacturing industries who go to the front. The fact of this matter being that the whole drain for the army will eventually fall upon the rural districts. Now Mr. Parcell of the United States Department of Labor has been in the county the past week trying to get a line on the labor situation in the hope of being able to send in enough help this fall to harvest Van Buren County's crops. A late ripening season renders certain crop situations, like the Grapes, precarious as the harvesting is likely to be cut short by hard freezing. The Department of Labor plans to furnish school boys from the cities, it really being the only labor available. We have gone over the situation with Mr. Parcell and some of the men who will need help, and we feel that while it may be necessary to use some high school boys from Grand Rapids and Chicago we could do much toward handling the situation if we could make use of all of the school help that we have at home. There are thirty-nine weeks between September 1st, and June 1st. We have ordinarily held school thirty-six of these, having two weeks vacation at Christmas and one at Easter. In view of the present extraordinary situation we want to suggest that all of our schools open the first week in September and continue four weeks, closing for a vacation of three weeks from the 1st, to the 22nd, of October and then continuing without vacation until the end of the school year. This plan permits of the full length of the school term and while open to objections, it seems to best solve the problem of utilizing school labor and at the same time not breaking up our school work. This plan is educational in as much as it renders unnecessary the granting of a large number of permits for children to stay out of school because of work at home. Three weeks in October will help very materially in the harvesting of our crops and school can then resume with a full attendance. We earnestly request that you consider this matter and we hope that your Board will be one of the first to act. Let us make this a patriotic, County wide affair, every boy and girl going out October 1st, to 21st, to "do their bit."

Sincerely yours

E. V. Root
County Commissioner Schools
T. A. Farrand
County Agricultural Agent.

SCHOOL NOTICE.

The PAW PAW SCHOOLS will open on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd. The School Building has been repaired and the grounds improved. An excellent course has been arranged. All pupils should classify on the first day or as soon thereafter as possible.

THOS. J. CAVANAUGH, Sec'y.